

Amendments to the Claims

In accordance with revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please amend the claims as follows, with deletions shown by strikethrough and additions shown by underlining:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~therapeutic composition for treating a human or animal~~ comprising,

~~a compound capable of altering nucleic acid function admixed with~~ one or more nucleic acid sequences or one or more triplex DNA compounds, and

a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



POP POE POP

wherein "b" represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately ~~2,000~~ 750 and 20,000; Daltons, and "a" represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:

"b" represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately 750 and 10,000; Daltons, and "a" represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:

"b" represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately ~~750~~ 2,000 and ~~20,000~~ 10,000 Daltons, and ~~"a" represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90%.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:

~~the mean aggregate molecular weight of the portion of the wherein~~ "b" represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is approximately 2500, Daltons, and "a" represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile (C₂H₄O)_a is approximately 10% of the weight of the block copolymer.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the ~~compound capable of altering nucleic acid sequence function is~~ one or more nucleic acid sequences are selected from genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, ~~triplex DNA compounds~~, or ribozymes.

6. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, further comprising approximately 0.1% to approximately 5% by weight of a surfactant and approximately 0.5% to approximately 5% by volume of a low molecular weight alcohol.

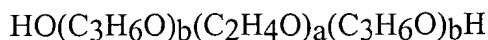
7. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 6, wherein the surfactant is ~~Tween 80~~ polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate and the alcohol is ethanol.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1, further comprising an expression vector, ~~wherein the compound capable of altering nucleic acid sequence function is a nucleic acid sequence contained in the expression vector, and the expression vector is capable of expressing the~~ one or more nucleic acid sequence sequences.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a ~~compound capable of altering nucleic acid sequence function~~ one or more nucleic acid sequences to a ~~human or an~~ animal comprising,

administering to a ~~human or the~~ animal a composition comprising a ~~compound capable of altering nucleic acid function admixed with~~ one or more nucleic acid sequences or

one or more triplex DNA compounds, and a nonionic block copolymer, wherein the block copolymer has the following formula:



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wherein “b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately ~~2,000~~ 750 and 20,000; Daltons, and “a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ method of Claim 9, wherein:

“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately 750 and 10,000; Daltons, and “a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ method of Claim 9, wherein:

“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is between approximately ~~750~~ 2,000 and ~~20,000~~ 10,000; Daltons, and “a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is between approximately 1% and 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ method of Claim 9, wherein:

~~the mean aggregate molecular weight of the portion of the~~ wherein “b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe $(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b$ is approximately 2500; Daltons, and “a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a$ is approximately 10% of the weight of the block copolymer.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the ~~compound capable of altering nucleic acid sequence function is~~ one or more nucleic acid sequences are selected from genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, ~~triplex DNA compounds~~, or ribozymes.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises approximately 0.1% to approximately 5% by weight of a surfactant and approximately 0.5% to approximately 5% by volume of a low molecular weight alcohol.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the surfactant is ~~Tween-80~~ polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate and the alcohol is ethanol.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein the composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises an expression vector, ~~wherein the compound capable of altering nucleic acid sequence function is a nucleic acid sequence contained in the expression vector, and the expression vector is capable of expressing the~~ one or more nucleic acid sequence sequences.

17. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 3,250 and 20,000 Daltons.

18. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 5,000 and 20,000 Daltons.

19. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 7,000 and 20,000 Daltons.

20. (New) The composition of Claim 17, wherein the one or more nucleic acid sequences are selected from genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, or ribozymes.

21. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
“a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile (C₂H₄O)_a is greater than about 1% and less than 10% of the weight of the block copolymer.

22. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein:
“a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile (C₂H₄O)_a is greater than 80% and less than about 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.

23. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 3,250 and 20,000 Daltons.

24. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 5,000 and 20,000 Daltons.

25. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein:
“b” represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobe (C₃H₆O)_b is between approximately 7,000 and 20,000 Daltons.

26. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the one or more nucleic acid sequences are selected from genes, oligonucleotides, antisense oligonucleotides, or ribozymes.

27. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein:

“a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(C_2H_4O)_a$ is greater than about 1% and less than 10% of the weight of the block copolymer.

28. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein:

“a” represents a number such that the percentage of hydrophile $(C_2H_4O)_a$ is greater than 80% and less than about 90% of the weight of the block copolymer.